## Laramie County Centralized Pharmacy

Helping Patients Access the Medications They Need

Issue 1, September 2008



## Hours of Operation

Monday 9-1

Tuesday 12-4

Wednesday 9-1

Thursday 2-6

Donations may be dropped off anytime during normal business hours

# Who is Eligible for the Program?

In order to be eligible to receive medications from Centralized Pharmacy, patients must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Current resident of Laramie County
- No prescription insurance, with the exception of Wyoming Prescription Drug Assistance Program (PDAP), if the patient takes more than 3 medications
- Low income (at or below 200% of Federal Poverty Level)



Centralized Pharmacy is located in Cheyenne Regional Medical Center East, at 2600 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Phone: 307-637-7000

Fax: 307-637-700

On the web at http://wdh.state.wy.us/healthcarefin/pharmacy/MedicationDonation.html



## How Are We Doing?

## A look at the numbers from the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008

From April 1st to June 30th, 2008, Laramie County Centralized Pharmacy filled 440 prescriptions, which is up from 369 filled during the first quarter. Of these prescriptions, 353 were dispensed to patients, and 87 were dispensed to clinics who serve the uninsured, such as Cheyenne Community Clinic for use with their patients. The value of the medications dispensed by Centralized Pharmacy during the second quarter was \$62,033.63. Of this, \$20,697.76 worth of medications was donated to clinics.

The retail value of medications donated to Centralized Pharmacy this quarter was \$166,588.46, bringing the yearly total of donations to \$293,787.41.

The retail value of expired medications this quarter was \$20,725.13. When medications expire, they can no longer be

dispensed to patients. However, Centralized Pharmacy makes every effort to donate them to facilities that can use them, such as overseas missions.

Recently, 100 pounds of expired medications were donated to a mission for use in Malawi, Africa.

### What Can and Cannot be Donated?

Laramie County Centralized Pharmacy can accept any un-opened or unit dosed medications in sealed packaging.

We are unable to accept any controlled substances such as pain medications (Percocet, Vicodin), sleeping aids (Ambien, Lunesta), or anti-anxiety medications (Xanax, Klonopin), refrigerated medications such as insulin, or loose pills in bottles. This is because safety and integrity of loose pills and refrigerated items cannot be guaranteed





## Proper Medication Disposal

Many people are unaware of the proper way to dispose of unwanted or expired medications.

Traditionally, medications have been disposed of by flushing them down the toilet or drain, but this method can pollute our wastewater, which can cause many unwanted effects to fish, wildlife, and eventually humans.

Instead, unwanted medications can be disposed of in the household trash after a few alterations have been made to them. First, scratch out any patient identifying information present on the container, leaving content information visible. Next, modify the contents to discourage consumption. Add a small amount of water to dissolve tablets, and mix with coffee grounds or other undesirable substance. Add salt, flour, charcoal, or other non-toxic spice to liquids to make a mixture no one would ingest. Wrap any packages containing pills in layers of opaque tape to disguise them. Next, tape the container shut and place inside of an opaque container

or bag so the contents cannot be seen. The container can now be placed in the trashcan, but do not put in the recycling bin.

Medications should not be disguised within food products, because they could be found and consumed by wildlife.



#### How to Refer Patients

In order to receive medications from Centralized Pharmacy, a human service agency or health care provider must refer patients. Please call 307-637-7000 to find out if we have the necessary medications and to provide referral information.

#### Thanks to You!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who refer patients to our pharmacy, and those who donate medications to us. The services that we offer would not be possible without your contributions. We appreciate your continued support in the future!









## Laramie County Centralized Pharmacy

Laramie County Centralized Pharmacy is a licensed pharmacy unitlizing the Wyoming Medication Donation Program. It was established to help unisured, low-income patiens access medications they need. The State of Wyoming Medication Donation Program makes it possible for medications to be donated and re-dispensed to patients in need. The Centralized Pharmacy is a short-term alternative for patients while they are waiting for access to longer- term assistance programs.

A project of ...Laramie County Community Partnership & Wyoming Department of Health

Funded by...United Way of Laramie County, City of Cheyenne, Laramie County, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, and Wyoming Department of Health

Laramie County Centralized Pharmacy

PO Box 21180 Cheyenne, WY 82003

#### [Recipient]

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Address Line 3

Address Line 4